

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 811

By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to direct a study of employment benefits for pre-kindergarten teachers.

WHEREAS, pre-kindergarten has a proven record of positively impacting early childhood development and student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a nationally recognized pre-kindergarten program which currently serves over seventeen thousand (17,000) children; and

WHEREAS, the classroom teacher has been shown to be the key component in impacting student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's pre-kindergarten program properly requires that all pre-kindergarten teachers be licensed teachers; and

WHEREAS, the attraction and retention of highly qualified licensed teachers is essential in maintaining a quality pre-kindergarten program in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the office of education accountability is directed to survey each local education agency which conducts a pre-kindergarten program to determine if all employment rights and benefits available to K-12 teachers also accrue to teachers of pre-kindergarten. Such survey shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for duty-free lunch, planning time, and class size requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the results of this survey shall be provided to the chairpersons of the house and senate education committees prior to January 15, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the director of the office of education accountability.